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OCT 23 2002

13012 Amarillo
Austin, TX
Sunday, October 06, 2002Michael K. Powell
FCC

Dear Michael:

I am writing to you as a concerned American consumer who is fearful that you will fall prey to a smoke screen and mirrors ploy. I STRONGLY BELIEVE AND AGREE in the 1996 Telecom Act.

I think it was the best thing that was done to protect the consumer in a very long time. What has happened in the Telecommunications industry was done for greed of pocketbook. Consumers did not do this, Owners, CEO's and stockbrokers did! Don't punish me, the consumer, by allowing the Baby Bell's and their likes in leading you to believe that they are loosing money because of open competition. It's because of their greed.

It is because they have always had the FCC and the PUCs to come back to and approve rate increases.

In fact that has been their strategy. Increase costs, get approvals for rate increases and increase earnings per share for their stockholders. Now they want the consumer to pick up the tab for their stockholders. Tell them **NO** ! Tell them they are an independent company that must learn to be competitive.

I, as an American consumer, want the choice to PICK WHO I SPEND MY HARD EARNED MONEY WITH. Our founding fathers died in giving us our liberal freedom of choice. Don't turn our country and time back 100 years. I sincerely hope that you do the right thing and leave the choice up to the consumer with the companies capable of competition. It is called 'free market'!

Thank you.

Respectfully,

John McBride
512-258-7681

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